

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 /070 W  
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R 181445Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 152  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRAZZAVILLE 058

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT CF  
SUBJECT: NGOUABI ASSASSINATION TRIAL, JANUARY 12-15

1. SUMMARY: PROSECUTION FOCUSED ON DEFENDANTS EQOLO, MALONGA-MUNGABIO AND OBA. END SUMMARY:

2. JAN. 12 (DAY 10): PROSECUTION CONCLUDED CASE AGAINST EWOLO, WISHING TO TURN TO OTHERS INVOLVED THAN THOSE IN ETAT-MAJOR ITSELF.

3. JAN. 13 (DAY 11): PROSECUTION PRESENTED TWO WRITTEN MESSAGES CONCERNING EVENTS OF MARCH 18 SENT TO COURT BY NGOUABI'S SON, NOW STUDYING IN CUBA. WITNESS MALONGA-MUNGABIO, A MEMBER OF SECURITY, WAS ACCUSED BY PROSECUTION OF LYING, AND WAS ARRAIGNED ON CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN ASSASSINATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN A RELIGIOUS SECT WHICH HAD AS ITS OBJECTIVE THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN CONGO. VARIOUS MEMBERS OF FORMER PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, MOST OF WHOM WERE SENTENCED LAST MARCH, THEN APPEARED. PROSECUTION STUDIED THE AUTOPSY REPORT CONCERNING NGOUABI, NOTING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED  
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TWO SHOTS IN THE BACK FROM A WEAPON THAT WAS CARRIED BY ONTSOU, WHO WAS EXECUTED LAST MARCH. (FYI: IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY MOST THAT, INSTEAD, KIKADID, WHO FLED CONGO, WAS TRIGGERMAN. END FYI)  
4. JAN. 14 (DAY 12): MALONGA-MUNGABIO WAS AGAIN ATTACKED FOR BEING MEMBER OF SAME RELIGIOUS SECT AS MASSAMBA-DEBAT. ACCUSED PRESIDENTIAL GUARD OBA TOOK STAND. PROSECUTION ALLEGED THAT OBA HAD BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH MOUTSAKA'S NIECE.

5. JAN. 15 (DAY 13): PROSECUTION ARGUED THAT OBA HAD TIPPED OFF KIKADIDI AS TO RIGHT MOMENT TO ATTACK NGOUABI. OBA'S ALLEGED GIRL FRIEND, MISS BABINGUI, WAS ALSO CALLED TO STAND. WHILE HER TESTIMONY WAS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT SPICY, BEST WAS YET TO COME WHEN OBA'S RUSSIAN-BORN WIFE TOOK STAND. INITIALLY ARGUING THAT SHE SPOKE LITTLE FRENCH, WHEN AGITATED, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT MRS. OBA'S FRENCH WAS PRETTY GOOD AFTER ALL. PROSECUTION ACCUSED MRS. OBA OF BEING REACTIONARY SINCE SHE NO LONGER WAS MEMBER OF SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY. WHEN SHE SAID THAT SHE STILL WAS A COMMUNIST, PROSECUTION REALLY PUT HER INTO A CORNER BY DEPICTING HER AS A WILD REVOLUTIONARY TEACHING IN THE CONGO, "WHICH IS SEEKING ONLY 'SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM'". WHEN ASKED WHY SHE TOLD HER STUDENTS ON MORNING OF ASSASSINATION THAT "SOMETHING IMPORTANT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE AFTERNOON", MRS. OBA DENIED HAVING MADE THAT STATEMENT, EXPLAINING THAT, "YOU KNOW, IN COUNTRIES LIKE THE CONGO, SOMETIMES STUDENTS JUST DON'T COME TO SCHOOL: YOU MUST RECOGNIZE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THIS IS NOT A DEVELOPED COUNTRY LIKE THE SOVIET UNION". (MRS. OBA IS ALMOST A WIDOW ALREADY; IF HER FUTURE TESTIMONY IS AS POOR AS THIS, SHE MAY BE SPENDING HER WIDOWHOOD SOMEWHERE IN CENTRAL ASIA). OBA HIMSELF WAS CRITICIZED BY PROSECUTION FOR HAVING MET WITH SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE: "THIS IS THE CONGO, NOT THE SOVIET UNION. WHAT WERE YOU DOING MEETING AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY WITH THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE?" KATZEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, TRIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CF  
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